

Maryjane Kenney

From: Paulina Knibbe [p.knibbe@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 2:00 PM
To: Manager Department
Subject: [Fwd: materials for tonight's oversight TAC at BOS]
Attachments: TAC to BOS 09-09.pptx; Bruce Stamski Nov. 08 Parking Fees and Meters.doc; Final_Acton_Suburban_Mobility_Grant_April_1-_2009.pdf; Overview_of_Prefered_Alternative_FEBRUARY_09_v2.doc

Extra information
9/14/09
#5

Please place these items in 'extra information' for tonight's meeting.

Thank-you.

Paulina

----- Original Message -----

Subject: materials for tonight's oversight TAC at BOS

Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2009 13:55:51 -0400

From: frannyola@aol.com

To: tac@acton-ma.gov, jimyarin@verizon.net, mhald@acton-ma.gov, lmason@acton-ma.gov, p.knibbe@comcast.net, sledoux@acton-ma.gov

This email cc'd to Mark and Laura in case they missed any of the items for tonight's BOS meeting, sent to Mark last week (except for one item (Bruce's email) which I sent over the weekend)

Hi, TAC,

I recall Jim C. could not attend tonight's oversight meeting. I don't know about Mike. I believe Jim Y and Bengt will be there. Attached are the materials I am using. Jim Y, I apologize for not hearing your message and thus not running the powerpoint by you. At least Bengt looked at it.

With only fifteen minutes, I probably won't see verbal contributions from the others of you there but possible.

Thanks.

Franny

9/14/2009

Transportation Advisory Committee
(TAC)
Oversight Meeting with BOS
September, 2009

In this presentation:

- TAC work over last year
- Upcoming TAC work
- BOS blessing requested
- Request of BOS

TAC work over last year

- Site plan reviews

TAC work over last year

- Worked with consultant hired as per Town Meeting 08 decision, to understand needs and plan solutions to local transportation problems
 - Online transportation survey (956 total, 836 Actonians)
 - Paper questionnaires to students and some seniors (approx. 3000 respondents)
 - Stakeholder interviews done by consultant and TAC

TAC work over last year

- Developed Preferred Alternatives, presented to BOS in January and February, 2009
 - Copy attached
 - Strategy 1: Consolidate and Centralize Management of Local Transportation Resources
 - Strategy 2: Expand Parking Management at South Acton Rail Station
 - Strategy 3: Implement Flexible Parking Shuttle
 - Strategy 4: Create New Commuter Demand Response Services

TAC work over last year

- Suburban Mobility
 - Submitted application for startup funding to Suburban Mobility (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program in April, 2009
 - Copy attached
 - Covers two of the four preferred alternatives (Strategy 3: Implement Flexible Parking Shuttle; and Strategy 4: Create New Commuter Demand Response Services)
 - Town Meeting approved \$24,500 match funds (plus \$7500 parking lot leasing/maintenance) for Suburban Mobility Grant, April 09
 - Acton was awarded the Suburban Mobility funding, June 09
 - Acton sent out rfp's for a grant-funded Transportation Coordinator, a Vendor for new service, and Satellite Parking Lots, August 09

TAC work over last year

- Surveys
 - Enlisted volunteers to code and enter questionnaires

TAC work over last year

- Taxi Voucher Program (grant awarded in 08)
 - Met with staff to discuss taxi voucher program, July 09. Planning Department summer intern worked on this project. Transportation Coordinator will help administer.

TAC work over last year

- Other business
 - Bike rack program
 - Rail Station development (garage, double-tracking ramps)
 - Citizen concerns
 - Rail parking pricing
 - Day Care Center development
 - Rail parking

Upcoming TAC work

- Suburban Mobility
 - Review incoming applications for parking lots, transportation coordinator, and vendor, and advise Town in decisions
 - Work with hired Coordinator and Vendor to start new service
 - Work with Planning and COA to assure smooth interface between new and existing service
 - Apply for second year of the three years of funding, again requiring Town match

Upcoming TAC work

- Coordination among Acton departments and with other towns in the region
 - Attend MA Institute for Transportation Coordination Oct. 20-22, 2009
 - Meet with nearby towns to seek regional solutions
 - Seek help from Metropolitan Planning Organization's Central Transportation Planning Staff in studying regional picture

Upcoming TAC work

- Surveys and Questionnaires
 - Finish entering data (high school volunteers)
 - Seek MPO help with mapping the data
 - Present data to Town

Upcoming TAC work

- Bike Rack Program
 - Identify locations
 - Participate in MAPC Bike Rack program

Upcoming TAC work

- Develop a financial plan for transportation
 - Availability of matching funds for grants
 - Talk to Finance Committee and BOS before next budget session

BOS blessing requested

- TAC seeks BOS approval for continuation of this effort:
- Coordination among Acton departments and with other towns in the region
 - Attend MA Institute for Transportation Coordination Oct. 20-22, 2009 (see next slide)
 - Meet with nearby towns to seek regional solutions
 - Seek help from Metropolitan Planning Organization's Central Transportation Planning Staff in studying regional picture

BOS blessing requested

Acton was accepted to attend the free MA Institute for Transportation Coordination training on October 20-22. The team can be 5 to 10 members.
The team so far includes:

- Mike Gowing for BOS
- Jean Fleming for COA
- TBA for Planning Dept.
- Franzy Osmen for TAC
- Lisa Franklin for COD
- Sarah Fletcher for Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce
- A Vendor (as suggested by the Institute)

TAC recommends inviting three neighboring towns to send a representative to join the team, facilitating future regional thinking. We would like to invite representatives from Maynard, Roxborough, and Concord to attend. (Future discussions of regional transportation would ideally include other nearby towns.)

BOS blessing requested

- Continue discussions with LRTA
 - LRTA provides vans for COA and Road Runner service; and dispatch for Road Runner.
 - We presently use only \$23k of the \$130k MBTA assessment money that we can spend by using LRTA's services
 - Our representative to the LRTA has said that BOS should ask him to ask LRTA for specific needs (e.g. third van). Needs will be clearer after Suburban Mobility program begins.

Specific request to BOS

- Install new meters at Rail Station
 - Increases revenue from rail station and prevents people from paying for spaces they can't find (as they do with the present sticker system)
 - Provides incentive for using shuttle
 - Allows flexibility in pricing, part of Parking Management strategy
 - See Bruce Stamski's Nov. 08 email (copy attached)

Specific request to BOS

- Pilot Program of 5 to 10 Reserved Spaces at Rail Station
 - TAC recommends that the Town assign 5 to 10 spaces at the South Acton Rail Station to be reserved in the same way, same rules, as the Jones Field spaces. These spaces would rent at \$80 per month, higher than the \$50 per month at Jones Field. TAC's hope is that more than one household would get together and carpool to these spaces.
 - Allows Town to gauge interest in variety of parking choices.